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First of all, I would like to thank this court for permitting me to express my views. My reason for making this statement is to ask the court to ensure that the reduction credit should not be applied to violent offenders.

The earned credit program allows offenders to cut time off of their sentence due to good behavior. However, one must keep in mind that criminals are not identical. Just because you commit one crime does not mean you are equally apt to commit different type of crime. The individual who hurt me did not steal from stores, he did not trespass. He raped. While he is in jail, it is not possible to determine whether or not he will reoffend. The man who hurt me liked to rape young girls. How can one decide whether or not he has been on good behavior? You cannot commit a crime if there is no victim to perpetuate a crime on.

You all deal with horrific cases such as this on a daily basis, and you must inevitably remove yourselves from the pain of the victims, otherwise you would be destroyed by the pain. I need you to see me as a human. I need you to see me as the college student who is still plagued with nightmares of events that transpired years ago. I am a victim of a violent offender. I suffer as a result of his crimes, to this day. If the court permits the early release of violent offenders, the court sends the message that a victim's pain means less than that of their abuser.

It has been nearly fifteen years since I was in my abusers house, yet I am still haunted by the darkness of my room at night. I have all of these awful memories floating around my head. My abuser hasn't touched me in years, but I can still feel his hands on me. Luxuries you take for granted, like feeling the relief at the end of the day, I cannot experience. And that is because of what this man did to me.

I truly hope you decide to keep him in jail for as long as legally permitted. I do not say this out of anger, or spite. Fear and compassion are my motivators. I am scared that he will be released and rape others. I worry for him as well. Prison gives you time to contemplate your past choices and to change as a person. But as we all know, change takes time. And the change that is required of him is no simple task. Changing his ways will not occur in a year or two. Possibly not in decades.

I used to have very vivid nightmares when I stayed at that house. Frankie woke me up from one of these dreams asked what was wrong. I told him about my nightmare. I was terrified, bugs were jumping all over me, and they wanted to suffocate me. Frankie told me that if I stayed quiet and let him lay next to me, he would fight all of the bugs off. I wish youth wasn't an excuse for ignorance, but it is. I was too young to realize how ridiculous his statement was. All I knew was that I was terrified of the bugs and he said he would keep them away. That's how he took advantage of me. He used my fears against me. He would tell me that it was just a game. It's not just a game when you hurt children, and that is exactly what he did. He has created this façade of innocence and that is above anything else, very dangerous.

I wish you could see me as that frightened child I was. I wish you could see the destruction his choices have caused. I was unfortunate enough to have this happen to me at such young an age, I will have to cope with this for the rest of my life. During the most critical years of childhood, I saw more deceit, anger and betrayal than even the most fantastic Shakespearean plays can incorporate. I truly wish I could explain the magnitude of what I have dealt with, but I don't think even the most verbose person in the world could translate my feelings into words.

Despite the fact that the abuse has ended, I still have to live with this. Anyone who can hurt people as brutally as he did, NEEDS to be in prison. I'm no longer asking you to do this for me. Do this for HIM. In prison, temptations are limited. He is away from his family. Keep him in a place where he can grow, and heal himself. Keep him away from potential victims. Keep him away from those he will hurt.

I know the concept of an eye for an eye is outdated, but that is not what this is. I'm not asking for the same treatment I endured to be inflicted on Frankie. That would be quite cruel and impossible. I need to know that I didn't suffer for nothing.

I am now 22 years old, but I am not just 22. Humans grow in layers. Even though I am a year older than I was last year, my 18 year old self still exists within . I am 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 all at the

same time. Embedded within me is the victim of his choices. Likewise, the monster that abused me still exists within him. If I have not yet managed to heal, there is no way that he has been able to subdue the impulses that reside inside of him.

My sister and I will never be able to fully recover from what he did. We will never be able to regain what he so wrongfully stole from us. We will be able to bandage the wounds he created, but the scars will still be there. Frankie took a part of our lives from us. I'm begging you to not apply the credit reduction to violent offenders, so that abusers such as my own can use the time that they were originally sentenced to to consider their actions.

After years of trying to cope with this, of trying to be a grasp on how a person could do such horrific things to a child, I'm finally begging to see some progress within my self. If you chose to apply the credit reduction to violent offenders, I feel certain that I would derail of this path I am on. I am finally becoming the person I want to be. My success and his release cannot coexist at this point. I am still struggling with my past, so I am asking you to chose me over him. Chose me to be the one who can strive to live a normal, functioning life. Chose me over the man who destroyed me. Chose me and my sister over a monster.

I hope my words and thoughts have had an impact on your decision.

Thank you.

Katherine Michelle Hanson